

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: CLEMENS JUNG ET AL.

For: METHOD OF OPERATING A DISHWASHER WITH A CENTRAL CONTROL UNIT BY
MEASURING THE TURBIDITY

Serial No.: 10/713,305 Examiner: Rita Ramesh Patel

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Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance issued concurrently with the Notice of Allowance on February 12, 2008. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not accurately described the features of Applicants' independent claims when characterizing Applicants' invention.

Specifically, independent claim 24 recites a method of cleaning dishes in a dishwasher in accordance with a programmed wash cycle implemented by a central control unit and comprising a rinse step and a cleaning step where a rinsing liquid is recirculated in the dishwasher, the dishwasher comprising an upper spraying apparatus defining an upper spray plane and a lower spraying apparatus defining a lower spray plane, the method comprising: determining turbidity values corresponding to the recirculation of the rinsing liquid in the lower spray plane and the upper spray plane, respectively, the lower and upper spray planes alternately recirculating the rinsing liquid and the determined turbidity values being associated with the respective spray plane in operation; determining a degree of soiling by determining a difference value corresponding to the difference between the turbidity values of the upper and

lower spray planes; and setting at least one operating parameter of at least one of the rinse step and the cleaning step based on the determined degree of soiling.

Independent claim 41 recites a method of cleaning dishes in a dishwasher in accordance with a programmed wash cycle implemented by a central control unit and comprising a rinse step and a cleaning step where a rinsing liquid is recirculated in the dishwasher, the dishwasher comprising a first and second set of spray nozzles, the method comprising: alternately operating the first and second set of spray nozzles; determining a first turbidity value associated with the operation of the first set of spray nozzles; determining a second turbidity value associated with the operation of the second set of spray nozzles; determining a degree of soiling of the rinsing liquid based on a difference value corresponding to the difference between the first and second turbidity values; and setting at least one operating parameter of at least one of the rinse step and the cleaning step based on the determined degree of soiling.

To avoid confusion and to clearly identify the different combinations of the features of Applicants' invention which has been allowed by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully suggest that Applicants' invention be defined as being allowable over the prior art of record as the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the various combinations of elements set forth separately in independent claims 24 and 41.

Respectfully submitted,

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